(c) what is the rationale behind this exercise when the issue of medicines is recorded by the Store-Keeper on the prescription itself and the C.G.H.S. beneficiary has to sign the Issue Register putting the date and his address?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Instructions are already there that no registration of prescription is required for collection of Indented Medicines in the dispensary. Instructions will be reissued to all dspensaries.

Clearance of Medical Claims

3838. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2048 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1992 and state:

(a) the progress made in the clearance of these claims as on 20th July, 1992;

(b) the number of claims which are pending for the last more than 6 months; and

(c) by when the backlog is likely to be cleared and what mechanism has been devised so that such a huge backlog is not allowed to accumulate for such long periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Out of the total pending medical claims of 2126, 2021 medical claims have already been settled.

(b) There are 105 medical claims pending for the last six months.

(c) As soon as the beneficiaries complete the prescribed formalities, the claims will be settled.

The settlement of medical reimbursement claims have been decentralised with effect from 1-4-1992 and the Ministries/Departments have been empowered to settle the medical claims where treatment has been taken from Government/ referral recognised hospitals.

Spread of AIDS in North Eastern States

3839. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the cause of the outbreak of AIDS in the North-East;

(b) what kind of preventive measures have been taken by Government and the measures taken to educate the general public; and

(c) whether there is any cell in the Medical Colleges of these States to detect AIDS virus and if not, by when such a cell is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The major cause of spread of HTV infection in North-Eastern states especially Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland has been found to be intravenous drug abuse among the young population of these states. The infection is passed on from one individual to another by sharing of common needles, according to a study by Indian Council of Medical Research nearly 94 per cent of intravenous drug users share the needles and majority of them use unclean needles. In addition, there have been other causes like heterosexual promiscuity and transfusion of infected blood in a few cases.

(b) Following preventive measures have been taken and are proposed to be taken to check the spread of HIV infection:—

— To create awareness among youths, IDUs, General Public, NGOs and

communities about Drug abuse and spread of HIV and AIDS;

— To strengthen Blood Safety Programme by strengthening the existing blood bank and linking with existing Zonal Blood Testing Centres;

— To strengthen S,T,D. Control programme to prevent spread of HIV through Sexcal Contract;

— To strengthen the Drug De-addiction Programme and establish rehabilitation centres in coordinatiin with the Welfare Minstry and NGOs working in the field.

(c) HIV testing centres have been established in Medical Colleges, Guwahati, Medical College Silchar and Regional Medical College, Imphal.

Performance of duties of registration work

3840. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the various C.G.H.S. units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi/New Delhi, the duty of registration work and distribution of medicines is performed by Group 'D' employees due to the non-posting of Pharmacists or Store-keepers there;

(b) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to fill up the vacancies of Pharmacists and Store-Keepers in the Units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi/New Delhi;

(c) whether any proposal for augmentation of staff in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy units are under active consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the sanctioned posts of Pharmacists under Homoeopathic/Unani system of medicines are already filled up. However, three posts of Ayurvedic Pharmacists are lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates possessing requisite qualification, despite efforts made to fill the posts.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

उत्तर प्रदेश में परिवार नियोजन केन्द्र

3841. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने-परिवार नियोजन केन्द्र है और सरकार प्रति-प्रतिवर्ष उन पर जिलावार कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च करती है ; और

(ख) 1990-91 और 1991-92 के वर्ष के दौरान प्रत्यक जिले में कितने-कितने व्यक्तियों का ऑपरेशन किया गया है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती डा० के० के० तारा देवी सिद्धार्थ): (क) और (ख) राज्य सरकार से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Human Resource Development in the country

3842. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times of 30th June, 1992 under the captions 'Kerala among best in HRD; North Worst; U.N. Report';

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and